United Nations

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council authorizes immediate deployment to Sarajevo airport of additional elements of United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia, following request by Secretary-General to "seize opportunity" offered by withdrawal of Serb forces from that area.

+ Secretary-General proposes establishment of joint Commission under chairmanship of United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia "to oversee and monitor process of restoration of authority in 'pink zones' by Croatian Government".

+ Secretary-General informs Security Council that he will deploy immediately 50 United Nations Observers to Somalia as both factions in Mogadishu have agreed to United Nations unarmed presence.

+ Secretary-General urges Angolan Government and UNITA to "work together to reduce current brinkmanship and bring it under control" if they are to have free and fair elections by end of September.

+ Secretary-General, in Dakar to attend Summit meeting of Organization of African Unity, meets with Nelson Mandela; President of the African National Congress; Secretary-General of OAU; President of Rwanda; and President of Tunisia.

+ Secretary-General expresses "shock and dismay" over news of assassination of President of Algeria, Mohammed Boudiaf.

+ Restructured Economic and Social Council begins five-week session at Headquarters today; session to feature high-level, coordination and operational activities for development segments.

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The Security Council today voted unanimously to deploy additional elements of the United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) to ensure the security and functioning of Sarajevo airport for the delivery of humanitarian supplies to the people of the region. The Council's move was in

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response to a request by the Secretary-General during consultations this morning to redeploy to Sarajevo airport the Canadian battalion which is located in Sector West in Croatia.

Under its resolution 761 (1992) today, the Council called upon all parties and others concerned to maintain "an absolute and unconditional cease-fire", as well as comply fully with the agreement of 5 June, by which both the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Serbian side committed themselves to the reopening of the Sarajevo airport under the exclusive authority of United Nations. The Council also appealed to all sides to cooperate fully with UNPROFOR to that end, to exercise the utmost restraint and not to seek any military advantage in the present situation. The Council cautioned that in the absence of cooperation with UNPROFOR and the international humanitarian agencies and organizations, it did "not exclude other measures to deliver humanitarian assistance to Sarajevo and its environs".

In his statement to the Council this morning, the Secretary-General informed its members that although the cease-fire was not yet completely in effect, the latest report from the Force Commander of UNPROFOR, General Satish Nambiar, indicated that considerable progress has been made towards the assumption by UNPROFOR of responsibility for the airport. Serbian forces had been withdrawing from the airport, and both sides had begun the process of concentrating their heavy weapons in locations to be supervised by UNPROFOR.

The Secretary-General further informed the Council that aside from instructing General Nambiar to deploy the Canadian battalion immediately to Sarajevo airport, he would also request the Government of France to make available immediately the air traffic control and air lift control elements it has offered to contribute to UNPROFOR. He would also ask the countries concerned to deploy three small battalions to replace the Canadian battalion, which would return to its duties in Croatia in due course.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali informed the Council that President François Mitterrand of France had briefed him of the outcome of his visit to Sarajevo yesterday, stressing that his objectives were purely humanitarian and coincided with those of the United Nations. He also urged member States that wished to send humanitarian flights to Sarajevo to delay doing so until the airport was fully under the control of UNPROFOR and all heavy weapons had been concentrated at UNPROFOR-supervised locations. He said he would report back to the Security Council on 1 July about progress achieved in that regard.

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The Secretary-General has put forward a set of proposals with regard to a solution to the problem of the "pink zones" -- certain areas of Croatia which are controlled by the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and populated largely by Serbs -- in order to avoid further conflict in the region.

In a report to the Security Council, dated 26 June, the Secretary-General proposes that a joint Commission be established under the chairmanship of the

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United Nations Protection Force in Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) to "oversee and monitor the process of the restoration of authority in the 'pink zones' by the Croatian Government". The Commission would consist of both representatives of the Croatian Government and the European Community Monitoring Mission.

The Secretary-General recommends that UNPROFOR assume full responsibility in Sectors North and South "as soon as feasibile", and simultaneously, undertake monitoring functions in the "pink zones" following the withdrawal of the Croatian Army and the JNA from those zones.

United Nations Civilian Police Force (UNCIVPOL) would then be deployed throughout the "pink zones" in order to monitor the maintenance of law and order by the existing police force, with particular regard to the well-being of any minority groups in the areas. UNCIVPOL would then supervise the restoration of authority by the Croation police and the reestablishment of the local police in proportion to the demographic structure of the areas prior to the conflict.

In his report, the Secretary-General asks the Security Council to lend its support to his recommendations and to appeal to all parties to cooperate fully with UNPROFOR in the implementation of the plan. He says that for peace to have a real chance in the area, "mutual confidence has to be re-established, and that cannot happen", he writes, "without a genuine willingness to compromise by both sides, backed by the continuing support of the international community". Document S/24188

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The Secretary-General has informed members of the Security Council that the principal factions in the Somali conflict have agreed to the immediate deployment of a unit of 50 United Nations Observers to monitor the cease-fire in that country, in accordance with Security Council resolution 751 of 24 April.

In a letter to the Council President, dated 23 June, the Secretary-General said he was taking immediate steps to implement the deployment. An advance group of military observers were expected to arrive in Mogadishu on 5 July. The other Observers were due to arrive in the Mission area by 1 July. Brigadier General Imtifaz Shaheen of Pakistan has been named Chief Military Adviser to the military component of the United Nations Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM). Document S/24179

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The Angolans have achieved a great deal in implementing the peace process since the civil war ended 13 months ago, but much work remains to be done urgently and effectively by all the parties concerned, mainly the Government and UNITA, if they are to achieve the goal of free and fair multi-party elections on 29 and 30 September 1992, according to the Secretary-General.

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In a further report to the Security Council on the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), dated 24 June, the Secretary-General notes with concern that, while the logistical difficulties are the most prominent at the present time, "the political and security atmosphere throughout Angola remains tense and could yet derail the process if not contained". All parties, particularly the Government and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), must work together to reduce the current brinkmanship and bring it under control, he writes. "The fostering of tolerance and reconciliation in the country must be intensified now, and sustained not only until September, but long afterwards".

By its resolution 747 (1992) of 24 March, the Council decided to enlarge the mandate of UNAVEM II to include an electoral division and asked the Secretary-General to keep it informed of developments in Angola and to submit a further report to it within three months.

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The Secretary-General arrived yesterday in Dakar, Senegal, to participate in the twenty-eighth Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). He was scheduled to address the opening of that meeting today. Upon arrival in Dakar, the Secretary-General held meetings with President Mubarak of Egypt, President Houphouet-Boigny of Côte d'Ivoire, President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, as well as the Algerian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Today, Mr. Boutros-Ghali met with Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress (ANC), the Secretary-General of the OAU, as well as the Presidents of Rwanda and Tunisia.

In an interview to the New Nigerian newspaper yesterday, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said it was not true that the United Nations had neglected Africa, and pointed out the diplomatic efforts to settle the conflicts in Somalia and the humanitarian aid to that country. Moreover, he said, the United Nations was in contact with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regarding Liberia.

Prior to his arrival in the Senegalese capital, the Secretary-General held two rounds of talks in Lagos, Nigeria, with South African Foreign Minister Roelof F. Botha, who explained to the Secretary-General his country's position regarding the recent massacre in Boipokang and how best to move the negotiations forward. He handed over to the Secretary-General a message from President F.W. de Klerk, as well as another communication setting out details in South Africa's position.

In the meeting, the Secretary-General underlined his concern about the deteriorating situation resulting from the massacre, and stressed the need for international cooperation regarding the situation in South Africa. Reference was made to the constructive role the United Nations could play in reviving the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA).

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During his visit to Nigeria, the Secretary-General also met with President Ibrahim Babangida, and Foreign Minister Ike Nwachukwu.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed "shock and dismay" over news of the brutal assassination of the President of the Supreme State Committee of the Algerian Republic, Mohamed Boudiaf.

In a statement issued at Headquarters, the Secretary-General condemned what he called "this act of terrorism" and expressed his sincere condolences to the Government of Algeria and to President Boudiaf's family.

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The restructured Economic and Social Council began this morning its first ever substantive session at Headquarters in New York. The two annual regular sessions of the Council of past years have been condensed by the General Assembly into one substantive session of four to five weeks, to take place, in alternate years, in New York and Geneva between May and July. Two sessional Committees - Economic and Social -- will deal with the issues before the Council, except during the high-level and coordination segments, which will take place from 6 to 8 July and from 9 to 14 July.

Among the first items to be taken up by the Economic Committee is the World Economic Survey, 1992 containing a study of major trends, policies and issues facing the international economies. Briefing the press on the Survey at Headquarters last week, Ji Chaozhu, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development, whose Department has prepared the report, said the past year was marked by both positive changes and disappointing developments. While there had been much "euphoria" at the outset, it rapidly turned to a "great feeling of uncertainty", he said, especially with regard to the economy. The Maastricht agreement on European unity, which had been hailed as a great accomplishment, very quickly ran into trouble. The Uruguay Round on multilateral trade talks remained stalled.

On the positive side, he said many countries of the developing world were engaged in real, substantive reforms, some of which were bringing about encouraging results. But the international environment was still, in many respects, insufficiently supportive of development in the third world.

At the high-level segment of the ECOSOC session, which will take place from 6 to 8 July, Ministers will discuss the role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation for development. The participants will have before them a report of the Secretary-General containing recommendations on how such cooperation could be enhanced.

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